

II. REMARKS

The Examiner has required restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121 to one of the following:

Group I: claims 1-19, which are drawn to an exterior finishing system; or

Group II: claims 20-37, which are drawn to a method of bonding a finishing material to a substrate.

Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I (claims 1-19) for prosecution in the present invention, and respectfully traverse the restriction requirement between the claims of Groups I and II. MPEP §818.03(b).

The claims of Groups I and II are related as process of making (claims 20-27) and product made (claims 1-19). MPEP §806.05(f) sets forth the standard for determining whether a process for making and a product made are separate and distinct. In the present restriction requirement, it is alleged that "Invention I relates to an exterior finishing article, while Invention II teaches a method to adhere a finishing material to a substrate." No further basis for the restriction requirement has been provided. Applicants respectfully submit that merely reciting the preamble of claims 1 and 20 as the basis for the restriction requirement does not, without any further explanation, establish that Groups I and II are separate and distinct. Thus, the burden required under MPEP 806.05(f) to establish that Groups I and II are separate and distinct has not been met. Applicants, therefore, submit that they are entitled to prosecute the claims of Groups I and II in the present application.

If the restriction requirement is maintained, Applicants reserve the right to file the claims of Group II (claims 20-27) in one or more continuing applications.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,



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